

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF NORTH DAKOTA  
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FARGO, ND 58102-4952

RALPH R. ERICKSON  
CHIEF JUDGE

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Dear Jurors,

On behalf of the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota, I would like to extend my heartiest welcome to you as you begin your jury service.

At the Court we know that jury service poses both a burden and a fantastic opportunity to you. We realize that being a juror necessarily takes time from your family, your work, and your friends. We recognize that it can be a financial burden as well. That said, your service is essential to our system of justice.

The Constitution guarantees to all citizens the right to have most cases tried to a jury. It also requires that no one be held answerable on a felony criminal charge unless probable cause has been established by the Grand Jury. Without people willing to serve as jurors our system of justice would completely break down. The jury is the people's voice in our system of justice—and it is the voice that makes our American justice system the envy of the world.

I promise that we will do everything within our power to make your experience a positive one. We will treat you with dignity and respect. We will respect your time to the best of our ability. If you have concerns we will do our best to address them. If you think that we have broken any of these promises, we want you to contact us. My telephone and fax numbers, as well as my address, are at the top of this page. If you call, just tell the person who answers the phone that you are a juror with a comment or complaint. I have instructed my staff to forward all such calls to me directly if I am available.

Finally, I ask that you try to relax and enjoy the experience. I am frequently told by jurors that jury service is one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives. I can assure you that if you approach the trial with this frame of mind it will undoubtedly not be as bad as an experience as you may fear. Who knows, you might even find that you agree that it is a uniquely positive experience.

On behalf of all the citizens of the United States—thank you for your service. We are honored by your presence and your willingness to serve.

Ralph R. Erickson  
Chief United States District Judge